

CNN/DES MOINES REGISTER/MEDIACOM IOWA POLL

Conducted by Selzer & Co.

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Interviews conducted March 3-6, 2019 by telephone with 400 registered Republicans in Iowa.

President Donald Trump's approval rating and re-election support remain strong among Iowa's registered Republicans, but a sizable minority of the party's registrants say they hope the president faces a challenger in the 2020 caucuses.

The new CNN/Des Moines Register/Mediacom poll of registered Republicans in Iowa finds 81% approve of the way the president is handling his job, unchanged since December, and 82% say they have a favorable view of Trump, up 5 points in that time. Roughly two-thirds (67%) say they'll definitely vote to re-elect the president, and about 6 in 10 (59%) are at least fairly confident he'll win in 2020.

But those positive signs are tempered by some registered Republicans' hope for a challenger to the president. Overall, Republicans are about evenly divided on the question, with 40% saying they hope the president faces a challenger from the party in the caucuses, and 41% saying they hope he does not face one. Another 19% are unsure.

Those who hope for a challenger to the president are generally positive about Trump, but they are less positive than their fellow registered Republicans about the president's performance in office (63% say they approve vs. 97% among those who say they hope Trump is not challenged) and in their impressions of him generally (66% view him favorably vs. 95% who hope he's not challenged).

Looking to 2020, however, they are far less likely to say they will definitely vote for his re-election (38% say so compared with 92% of those who do not want to see him face a GOP challenger). And most have doubts about whether he can win a second term: 56% in this group say they are only somewhat confident he'll win or are almost certain he'll lose, compared with fewer than 2 in 10 of those who say they don't want to see the president challenged from inside the party.

Hope for a presidential challenger is stronger among women (44%) than men (36%), among younger Iowa registered Republicans (48% among those under age 45) than older ones (35% among those age 45 and up), those with college degrees (47%) than those who don't hold a four-year degree (34%), among those who consider themselves politically independent (57%) than self-identified Republicans (33%), and most strongly, among moderates (63%) than among conservatives (33%).

But the poll suggests those doubts about the president don't mean they're ready to defect to any of their currently available choices. Just 18% in this group say they are seeing Democratic candidates who they could potentially support for president. And former Starbucks CEO

Howard Schultz, who is exploring an independent bid for president, generates tepid favorability ratings among this group (only 11% have a positive view, 21% unfavorable).

And none of three potential GOP opponents for the president tested particularly well in the poll, though. Among all registered Republicans, just 4% each expressed favorable views of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan or former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld, and more than 8 in 10 said they didn't know enough to have an opinion about each of them. Former Ohio governor John Kasich earns a split decision, with 27% favorable and 28% unfavorable, a bit worse than in December. Kasich's favorability was higher among those who hope to see a challenger to Trump (39% favorable vs. 23% among those who hope Trump goes unchallenged).

No matter where they come down on whether the president should face a challenge for the Republican nomination, nearly all registered Republicans in Iowa say the president's re-election campaign should focus more on the positive changes he has made for the country (90%) than on attacking his opponents (4%).

Most registered Republicans consider the president's recent declaration of a national emergency to be a positive. Almost two-thirds (63%) say Trump had the right to make the declaration and that it was the right thing for him to do. Just 6% say he had the right to do it, but it was the wrong thing to do, and 20% believe he did not have the right to declare an emergency to secure more funding for a border wall.

CNN/DES MOINES REGISTER IOWA POLL

March 3-6

REGISTERED REPUBLICANS

How Trump Is Handling
His Job as President

Approve	81%
Disapprove	12%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president?

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March 3-6

REGISTERED REPUBLICANS

Do You Hope To See
A Republican Challenge
To Donald Trump?

Yes	40%
No	41%
Unsure	19%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Hope For A
Republican Challenge
To Donald Trump

Moderates	63%
Conservatives	33%

Sampling error: +/-10.7% pts

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Hope For A
Republican Challenge
To Donald Trump

Independents	57%
Republicans	33%

Sampling error: +/-9.7% pts

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REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Hope For A
Republican Challenge
To Donald Trump

Age <45	48%
Age 45+	35%

Sampling error: +/-8.1% pts

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REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Hope For A
Republican Challenge
To Donald Trump

College grad 47%
No degree 34%

Sampling error: +/-7.7% pts

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Hope For A
Republican Challenge
To Donald Trump

Women 44%
Men 36%

Sampling error: +/-7.0% pts

QUESTION: In the 2020 caucuses, do you hope there is or is not a
Republican who challenges Donald Trump for the nomination?

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
In the Presidential Election,
Would You...

Definitely vote Trump 67%
Consider someone else 18%
Definitely vote someone else 9%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

QUESTION: If the general election vote for president of the United
States were held today with Donald Trump as the Republican candidate,
would you definitely vote to re-elect President Trump, consider
someone else, or definitely vote to elect someone else, or would you
not vote?

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
How Confident Are You
That Trump Will be Re-elected?

Almost certain of re-elect 27%
Fairly confident 32%
Somewhat confident 26%
Almost certain of defeat 10%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

QUESTION: How confident are you that Donald Trump will be re-elected president in 2020—do you feel almost certain he will be re-elected, fairly confident, just somewhat confident, or are you almost certain he will be defeated?

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March 3-6

REGISTERED REPUBLICANS

How Should Trump

Campaign for Re-election?

Focus on accomplishments	90%
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Attack his opponents	4%
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Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

QUESTION: Which of the following better describes the way you personally would like to see Donald Trump campaign for re-election? Should he: Focus on promoting the positive changes he's made for the country OR Focus on attacking his opponents

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March 3-6

REGISTERED REPUBLICANS

Opinion of Donald Trump

Favorable	82%
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Unfavorable	15%
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Unsure	3%
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Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

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March 3-6

REGISTERED REPUBLICANS

Favorable Opinion of

Donald Trump

Now	82%
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December	77%
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Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

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March 3-6

REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Opinion of Larry Hogan

Favorable	4%
Unfavorable	12%
Unsure	84%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Opinion of John Kasich

Favorable	27%
Unfavorable	28%
Unsure	45%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Opinion of Bill Weld

Favorable	4%
Unfavorable	15%
Unsure	81%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Opinion of Howard Schultz

Favorable	10%
Unfavorable	28%
Unsure	61%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

QUESTION: Now, I'm going to mention some prominent people. For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough about the person to answer, just say so.

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Did Trump Have Right
To Declare National Emergency
For Border Wall?

Yes	69%
No	20%
Unsure	11%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

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March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Views On Trump's
Declaration of
National Emergency
For Border Wall?

Had right, right thing to do	63%
Had right, wrong thing to do	6%
Trump did not have the right	20%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

QUESTION: Regardless of how you feel about the situation at the U.S. border with Mexico, do you think Donald Trump did or did not have the right to declare a national emergency to secure more funding for a border wall? (If did have the right, ask:) Do you think declaring a national emergency was the right thing or the wrong thing for President Trump to do?

CNN/DES MOINES REGISTER IOWA POLL
March 3-6
REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
Any Democratic Candidates
You Could Support?

Yes	11%
No	79%
Unsure	10%

Sampling error: +/-4.9% pts

QUESTION: As Democratic candidates are starting to ramp up campaigns for the presidential nomination, are you seeing candidates that appeal to you and that you could potentially support?